

I look forward to continuing to work on these and other important issues in the 109th Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JAMES JARRELL PICKLE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a true patriot. Known simply as "Jake," James Jarrell Pickle served in the House of Representatives for 32 years where he became a senior Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee—where I had the pleasure of serving with him.

While in Congress, his dedication to the concerns of his constituents as well as putting their interests first made Jake a well respected figure on Capitol Hill. Publicly listing his home phone number and personally taking calls from his constituents well into the night, Jake embodied accountability in governance. His political drive was so focused that it is said that he lost 25 pounds during his first Congressional campaign.

The strength of Jake's political convictions can best be seen in his vote in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—one year after his first election. Jake was convinced that this vote would guarantee him a ticket out of Washington in his next election. Regardless of this potential outcome, he became one of only seven southern Representatives to vote for this important piece of legislation, and the good voters of Texas' 10th District sent him back to Congress for the next 31 years.

As the Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, Jake played a major role in writing legislation that saved Social Security in 1983, when, much like today, it faced financial challenges. His words then calling for bipartisanship ring true today—Jake said, "We should hold our fire. We can't inflame this subject. If we inflame it too much, nothing will get done, and if nothing gets done, the American people will have the right to throw us all out." One year later, Jake was influential in preserving Social Security benefits for the disabled.

Before he entered Congress, Jake served in World War II as a Gunnery Officer on the USS *St. Louis* and the USS *Miami*. During his three year stint, starting in 1942, Jake survived three torpedo attacks. Clearly he was meant to make it back. When he returned home, he established Austin, Texas's third radio station, KVET.

When I was first elected to the Ways and Means Committee, Jake helped me understand the great tradition of that Committee. Once, our Committee held a retreat in Austin, Texas, and Jake entertained us for hours with Lady Bird Johnson, telling us story after story. Jake served his District and Nation well, and he will be missed by all of us.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
GENERAL LOUIS H. WILSON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late General Louis H. Wilson, a World War II veteran, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and 26th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. General Wilson was also a recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for "exceptionally distinguished service" during his four-year tenure as Commandant and his contributions as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He leaves his wife, the former Jane Clark of Pearson, Mississippi and one daughter, Janet. Our country lost a strong leader, courageous Marine, and dedicated patriot upon the passing of General Wilson.

Born February 11, 1920, in Brandon, Mississippi, General Wilson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. In May 1941, he embarked upon his path of commendable service in the Marine Corps Reserve, as he enlisted and was commissioned a second lieutenant. As a young Marine, Wilson participated in the ferocious battle to liberate Guam. His actions during fierce combat on Guam, which was heavily occupied by the enemy for 32 months, earned him the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for heroism and leadership. Wilson was promoted to the rank of Captain while serving overseas with the 9th Marines in 1943. His tour in the Pacific Theater took him to Guadalcanal, Efate, and Bougainville. In December 1944, he was transferred to Washington, D.C., where he served as Detachment Commander at the Marine Barracks and was presented the Medal of Honor by President Truman.

The Medal of Honor was but the first accolade bestowed upon General Wilson during his service in the Marine Corps. In March 1970, Wilson was promoted to Major General. General Wilson was also awarded two additional Legion of Merit medals and the Korean Order of National Security Merit, GUK-SEON Medal, 2d Class and the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander) for his service in those countries. On July 1, 1975, General Wilson received his final promotion to General when he assumed the office of Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As Commandant, General Wilson advocated modernization of the post-Vietnam Marine Corps for the protection of his corps. His indomitable leadership and relentless dedication enhances the highest traditions of our country. I join the millions of Marines and their families in mourning the passing of this honorable man. General Wilson will always have a special place in the hearts of the people of Guam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 23, 2005, owing to an important family matter,

I regrettably missed recorded vote numbered 306.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this measure.

HONORING SPECIALIST BRANDON SABETTI

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic action of one of our brave soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Brandon Sabetti of Mosier is a member of the National Guard from my home state of Oregon. He was called to active duty with Alpha Company of the Third Battalion of the 116th Cavalry and conducted training exercises at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and Ft. Bliss, Texas before transferring to Iraq at the end of last year. I had the honor of meeting with many of the citizen soldiers who comprise Alpha Company when I visited both forts during their training.

Since that time he conducted regular mobile infantry missions to secure dangerous areas of Iraq and to help Iraqis rebuild their country after decades under Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime. On the morning of June 3rd, he was traveling in a convoy toward Forward Operating Base Warrior near Kirkuk as part of a road-clearing mission when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by a roadside bomb.

Spc. Sabetti, the gunner and designated combat lifesaver in his vehicle, was sitting in the open turret at the top of the Humvee and was ejected upon impact. He immediately got back on his feet and began triaging his wounded companions—dressing their wounds and administering intravenous fluids. He quickly ran to the second vehicle in the convoy to report the injuries and share the need for a quick medical evacuation.

He jumped into the third Humvee, which was pulling into position to provide security to the injured when a second bomb detonated, destroying that vehicle as well. Undaunted, Sabetti again went to work administering medical care to those wounded in the second attack and assisting in their evacuation after additional support arrived.

Sabetti's heroic courage under fire and willingness to attend to the needs of his comrades despite risk to himself was central to ensuring that none of the ten Oregon Guardsmen injured in the attack lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this young man exemplifies the honorable character of the men and women who have answered duty's call throughout our Nation's history. His willingness to serve and sacrifice for our country and his fellow soldiers is a clear demonstration of the courage and professionalism that distinguish our armed forces. This grateful Nation owes Spc. Sabetti and his compatriots in arms serving around the world every day a profound debt of gratitude. I am proud to call him a fellow Oregonian and I thank him deeply for his service.

God bless America.